

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Harrity on 6/2/2008.

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the method comprising:

receiving a SIP call request message;

challenging a device that originated the SIP call request message to authenticate itself, the device performing a first authentication process based on a username and a password associated with the device to generate a first authentication result as a result of authenticating itself;

authenticating the SIP call request message by performing a second authentication process based on the username and the password associated with the device to generate a second authentication result and comparing the second

Art Unit: 2617

authentication result to the first authentication result;

evaluating at least one calling feature in a profile of the second client;

identifying, based on the at least one calling feature, an authentic originating client when the second authentication result matches the first authentication result;

searching a database to determine whether the database includes a client billing tag that identifies the authentic originating client as a party responsible for paying for the call;

authorizing the call to be completed if the client billing tag is included in the database; and

not authorizing the call to be completed if the client billing tag is not included in the database.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

inserting the client billing tag into the SIP call request message; and

transmitting the SIP call request message to a gateway after the client billing tag is inserted into the SIP call request message.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising

providing, by the gateway, a network operating support system with the client billing tag.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first authentication process or the second authentication process includes performing a calculation using a hash algorithm.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1, further comprising inserting, by a server, a client billing tag corresponding to the second client into the SIP call request message based on the at least one calling feature.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising transmitting, by the server, the SIP call request message to a gateway after the client billing tag corresponding to the second client is inserted into the SIP call request message.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein a gateway provides a network operating support system with the client billing tag.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call forwarding command.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call transfer command.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
~~evaluating at least one calling feature activated by the second client;~~
~~determining the authentic originating client based on the at least one calling~~
~~feature;~~
retrieving the client billing tag corresponding to the authentic originating client;
and
inserting the client billing tag corresponding to the authentic originating client into the SIP call request message.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising transmitting, by a server, the call request message to a gateway after the client billing tag is inserted into the call request message.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call forwarding command.

14. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call transfer command.

Art Unit: 2617

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
adding a header to the SIP call request message, the header including a server identifier; and
transmitting the SIP call request message to a gateway, the gateway being configured to complete the call if the header is detected and not complete the call if the header is not detected.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
checking the SIP call request message for the presence of a header, the header including a server identifier; and
completing the call if the header is detected.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the call is not completed if the header is not detected.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first client is a SIP-telephone and the second client is a SIP-telephone.

19. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first client is a SIP-telephone and the second client is a standard telephone coupled to a PSTN.

20. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is coupled to a network gateway.

21. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is coupled to an enterprise gateway.

22. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a SIP voicemail server.

23. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a SIP conferencing server.

24. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is coupled to a DAL gateway.

25. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a client PBX system.

26. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a personal computer.

27. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing a method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the computer-readable medium comprising:

instructions for receiving a call request message;

instructions for challenging a device that originated the call request message to authenticate itself, the device generating an authentication result as a result of authenticating itself;

instructions for authenticating the call request message based on the authentication result ~~to identify an authentic originating client;~~

instructions for evaluating at least one calling feature in a profile of the second client;

instructions for determining, based on the at least one calling feature, an authentic originating client when the call request message is authenticated;

instructions for searching a database to identify whether the database includes a client billing tag that identifies the authentic originating client as a party responsible for paying for the call;

instructions for not authorizing the call to be completed if the database does not include the client billing tag;

instructions for authorizing the call to be completed if the database includes the client billing tag;

instructions for inserting the client billing tag into the call request message when the call is authorized to be completed; and

instructions for forwarding the call request message with the inserted client billing tag when the call is authorized to be completed.

28. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing a method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the computer-readable medium comprising:

instructions for receiving, by a SIP server, a SIP call request message;

instructions for challenging, by the SIP server, a device that originated the SIP call request message to authenticate itself, the device generating an authentication result as a result of authenticating itself;

instructions for authenticating, by the SIP server, the SIP call request message based on the authentication result ~~to identify an authentic originating client;~~

instructions for evaluating at least one calling feature in a profile of the second client;

instructions for determining, based on the at least one calling feature, an authentic originating client when the SIP call request message is authenticated;

instructions for searching, by the SIP server, a database to find a client billing tag that identifies the authentic originating client as a party responsible for paying for the call;

instructions for inserting, by the SIP server, the client billing tag into the SIP call request message; and

instructions for transmitting, by the SIP server, the SIP call request message to a gateway.

29. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising:

instructions for completing, by the SIP server, the call if the client billing tag is obtained; and

instructions for not completing, by the SIP server, the call if the client billing tag cannot be obtained.

30. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the gateway provides a network operating support system with the client billing tag and call statistics after receiving the SIP call request message from the SIP server.

31. (previously presented) A method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the method comprising:

receiving a SIP call request message from the first client;

challenging a device that originated the SIP call request message to authenticate itself, the device generating an authentication result as a result of authenticating itself;

evaluating at least one calling feature in a profile of the second client;

determining an authentic originating client based on the at least one calling feature and the authentication result;

retrieving a client billing tag that identifies the authentic originating client as a party responsible for paying for the call; and
inserting the client billing tag into the SIP call request message.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising transmitting, by a server, the SIP call request message to a gateway after the client billing tag is inserted into the SIP call request message.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising providing, by the gateway, a network operating support system with the client billing tag and at least one call statistic after the call is completed.

34. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call forwarding command.

35. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call transfer command.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the party responsible for paying for the call is the first client.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the party responsible for paying for the call is the second client.

38-42. (canceled)

43. (currently amended) A system for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the system comprising:

a SIP server configured to:

challenge a device that originated the call by requesting the device to authenticate itself, the device performing a first authentication process based on a username and password associated with the device to generate a first authentication result as a result of authenticating itself,

process a SIP call request message received from the first client to ~~determine an authentic originating client~~ by performing a second authentication process based on the username and the password associated with the device to generate a second authentication result and comparing the second authentication result with the first authentication result,

evaluate at least one calling feature in a profile of the second client,

determine an authentic originating client based on the at least one calling feature and a result of comparing the second authentication result with the first authentication result,

obtain a client billing tag that identifies the authentic originating client as a party responsible for paying for the call; and
a network gateway coupled to the SIP server, the network gateway being configured to provide at least one of the first client or the second client conditional access to a public switched telephone network.

44. (previously presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the server transmits the SIP call request message to the network gateway if the client billing tag is obtained, and does not transmit the call request message to the network gateway if the client billing tag cannot be obtained.

45. (previously presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the SIP server is configured to insert the client billing tag into the SIP call request message and transmit the call request message to the network gateway.

46. (original) The system of claim 45, further comprising a network operation support system coupled to the network gateway, the network gateway being configured to transmit the client billing tag to the network operation support system after the call is completed.

47- 48. (canceled)

49. (currently amended) The network of claim ~~[[48]]~~ 43, wherein the SIP server inserts a client billing tag corresponding to the second client based on the at least one calling feature.

50. (previously presented) The network of claim 43, wherein the SIP server is configured to add a header to the SIP call request message.

51. (previously presented) The network of claim 50, wherein the network gateway is configured to complete the call if the header is detected and not complete the call if the header is not detected.

52. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein the first client is a SIP-telephone and the second client is SIP-telephone.

53. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein the first client is a SIP-telephone and the second client is a standard telephone coupled to a PSTN.

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is coupled to the network gateway.

55. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is coupled to an enterprise gateway.

56. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a SIP voicemail server.

57. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a SIP conferencing server.

58. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is coupled to a DAL gateway.

59. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a client PBX system.

60. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a personal computer.

61. (currently amended) A server system for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the system comprising:
a database configured to store at least one client billing tag; and

a processor coupled to the database, the processor being programmed to:
challenge a device that originated the call by requesting the device to
authenticate itself, the device performing a first authentication process based on a
username and password associated with the device to generate a first authentication
result as a result of authenticating itself,

process a SIP call request message ~~to identify an authentic originating client~~ by
performing a second authentication process based on the username and the password
associated with the device to generate a second authentication result and comparing
the second authentication result with the first authentication result,

evaluate at least one calling feature in a profile of the second client;

determine an authentic originating client based on the at least one calling feature
and a result of comparing the second authentication result with the first authentication
result,

search the database to find the client billing tag that identifies the authentic
originating client as a party responsible for paying for the call,

allow the call to be completed if the client billing tag is obtained, and

not allow the call to be completed if the client billing tag cannot be obtained.

62. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the processor is
programmed to insert the client billing tag into the SIP call request message.

63. (previously presented) The system of claim 62, wherein the processor is programmed to transmit the SIP call request message with the client billing tag to a network gateway.

64. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the processor is further programmed to:

add a header to the SIP call request message, the header including a server identifier identifying the server system that forwards the call request message; and
transmit the SIP call request message and header to a network gateway.

65-74. (canceled)

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein authenticating the call request message includes:

receiving the username and the first authentication result from the device,
determining a password that corresponds to the username,
performing a hash function based on the username and password, and
determining whether a result of the hash function matches the first authentication result.

76. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein authenticating the call request message includes:

Art Unit: 2617

receiving a user name and the authentication result from the device,
determining a password that corresponds to the user name,
performing a hash function based on the user name and password, and
determining whether a result of the hash function matches the authentication
result.

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein authenticating
the SIP call request message includes:

receiving a user name and the authentication result from the device,
determining a password that corresponds to the user name,
performing a hash function based on the user name and password, and
determining whether a result of the hash function matches the authentication
result.

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein authenticating
the SIP call request message includes:

receiving a user name and the authentication result from the device,
determining a password that corresponds to the user name,
performing a hash function based on the user name and password, and
determining whether a result of the hash function matches the authentication
result.

79. (previously presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the SIP server is further configured to:

receive the username and the first authentication result from the device,
determine a password that corresponds to the username,
perform a hash function based on the username and password, and
determine whether a result of the hash function matches the first authentication result.

80. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the processor is further programmed to:

receive the username and the first authentication result from the device,
determine a password that corresponds to the username,
perform a hash function based on the username and password, and
determine whether a result of the hash function matches the first authentication result.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4, 6-37, 43-46, 49-64, 75-80 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claims 1, 27, 28, 43, and 61. The prior art of record fails to teach a method for placing a call between a first and second client, comprising; receiving a call request message, challenging a device that originated the call request

message to authenticate itself, the device performing a first authentication based on a username and password to generate a first authentication result, authenticating the call request message by performing a second authentication process based on the username and password associated with the device to generate a second authentication result, comparing the first and second result, evaluating at least one calling feature in a profile of the second client, identifying based on the at least one calling feature an authentic originating client when the second authentication result matches the first authentication result, searching a database to determine a client billing tag that identifies the authentic originating client as a party responsible for paying for the call, authorizing the call if the billing tag is included, and not authorizing the call if the billing tag is not included in the database, as substantially described in independent claims 1, 27, 28, 43, and 61. These limitations, in combination with the remaining limitations of claims 1, 27, 28, 43, and 61 are not taught nor suggested by the prior art of record. Dependent claims 2-4, 6-26, 29-30, 44-46, 49-60, 62-64, 75-77, and 79-80 are dependent from claims 1, 27, 28, 43 and 61, and are therefore allowed for the same reasons.

Regarding independent claim 31. The prior art of record fails to teach a method for placing a call between a first and second client, comprising; receiving a SIP call request message from the first client, challenging the device to authenticate itself and generating an authentication result, evaluating at least one calling feature in a profile of the second client, determining the authentic originating client based on the at least one calling feature and the authentication result, retrieving a client billing tag that identifies

Art Unit: 2617

the originating client as a party responsible for paying for the call, inserting the client billing tag into the SIP call request message, as substantially claimed in independent claim 31. These limitations, in combination with the remaining limitations of claim 31 are not taught nor suggested by the prior art of record. Dependent claims 32-37, and 78 depend from claim 31, and are therefore allowed for the same reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL T. THIER whose telephone number is (571) 272-2832. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 7:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duc Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-7503. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2617

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/M. T. T./
Examiner, Art Unit 2617
6/3/2008

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617